

REMARKS:

This amendment is for the purpose of amending the Specification in the original application by amending claims 2, 3, 6, 12 and 20 and cancelling claims 1, 9 - 11 that claims 2 through 8 and 12 through 20 remain in this application.

The Official Action objects to claims 6 - 8 as containing the limitation "said translucent covering" in line 1 of each, there being insufficient antecedent bases in the claims for that limitation. Applicant has amended claim 6 to include the limitation of a "translucent covering" as a named element thus providing antecedent basis for the term in the claims. Applicant believes that the objection to claims 6 - 8 has been overcome by the amendment to claim 6 and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance thereof.

The Official Action rejects claims 1 - 11 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hoffman, U. S. Patent 5,516,387 as Hoffman discloses a window assembly including an elongate transparent pane (22), at least one lighting assembly (12) and at least one opaque covering (18) associated with an interior surface of the transparent pane wherein the opaque covering (18) includes at least one aperture (20) through which light emanates and propagates to an exterior of the transparent pane and wherein the opaque covering (18) covers a minor area of the interior of the elongate transparent pane (22), the opaque covering (18) is adhesively (24) secured, the opaque covering (18) is an elastomeric film, the aperture (20) is a plurality of elongate rectangular slots and the lighting assembly (12) is aligned with the aperture (20). The Examiner indicates that claim 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and all intervening claims in the chain.

Accordingly, to overcome the rejections of claims 1 - 11, Applicant has amended claim 12 to include all the language of claims 1, 9 and 10 in that chain such that claim 12 now recites that the window assembly comprises an elongated transparent pane, at least one lighting assembly and at least one opaque covering, the elongated transparent pane having the opaque covering associated with the interior surface thereof and having the lighting assembly mounted adjacent the interior surface of the opaque covering, the opaque covering having at least one aperture disposed therethrough wherein light emanates from the lighting assembly through the aperture, through the transparent pane and propagating from the exterior surface of the transparent pane and that the

aperture comprises a plurality of spaced apart, elongated slots selected from the group comprising rectangles, ellipses, trapezoids, parallelograms, circles, minor portions or combinations thereof and wherein the lighting assembly comprises a plurality of individual lighting elements aligned with the plurality of spaced apart, elongated slots. In the same vein, Applicant believes that with regard to claim 20 the shapes of the slots are not found in Hoffman and therefore Applicant has amended the claim 20 to recite that the opaque covering for an elongated, solid transparent pane claimed therein has at least one aperture comprising a plurality of spaced apart, elongated slots wherein the spaced apart, elongated slots are selected from the group comprising rectangles, ellipses, trapezoids, parallelograms, circles, minor portions or combinations thereof. Additionally, Applicant has amended claims 2 and 3 to be dependent upon claim 12 now deemed allowable and carries therewith the dependent claims 4 - 8 and 13 - 16. Applicant thus further restricts claim 12 with these dependent claims pending therefrom and believes that claims 2 - 8 and 13 - 16 are allowable with claim 12. Applicant believes that the amendments to claims 2, 3, 12 and 20 overcome the §102(b) rejection of claims 1 - 11 and 20, therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 - 11 and 20, however if the Examiner persists with the application of Hoffman to the claims here presented, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's assistance in making the claims allowable thereover.

The Official Action rejects claims 13 - 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoffman, U. S. Patent 5,516,387 as the Examiner maintains that Hoffman discloses the basic claimed window assembly except for the opaque covering disposed on at least one other area of the transparent pane and except for the use of an additional assembly. Applicant believes that the rejection of the independent claim has been overcome in view of the amendment to claim 12 as recited above and that Applicant is entitled to the further restrictions under 35 U.S.C. 112, fourth paragraph, to the independent claims as contained in claims 13 - 16. Therefore, Applicant believes the rejection of claims 13 - 16 based on 35 U.S.C. 103(a) has been overcome and Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of dependent claims 13 - 16.

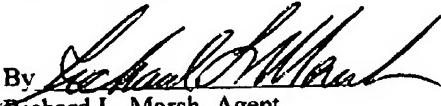
Applicant is greatly appreciative of the Examiner's prompt action in the examination of this docket, the Examiner's indication that claim 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and is especially appreciative of the Examiner's allowance of claims 17 - 19.

Applicant has amended claims 2, 3, 6, 12 and 20 to overcome the Examiner's objection to claims 6 - 8, the rejection of claims 1 - 11 and 20 based on 35 USC 102(b) and the rejection of claims 13 - 16 based on 35 U.S.C. 103(a) thereby placing this application in condition for allowance. Thus, claims 2 - 8 and 12 - 20 remain in this application and Applicant respectfully requests allowance thereof.

In view of the above, an Action on the merits of this application, as amended, and an allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Thomas, Docket 20318

7

28 November 2005